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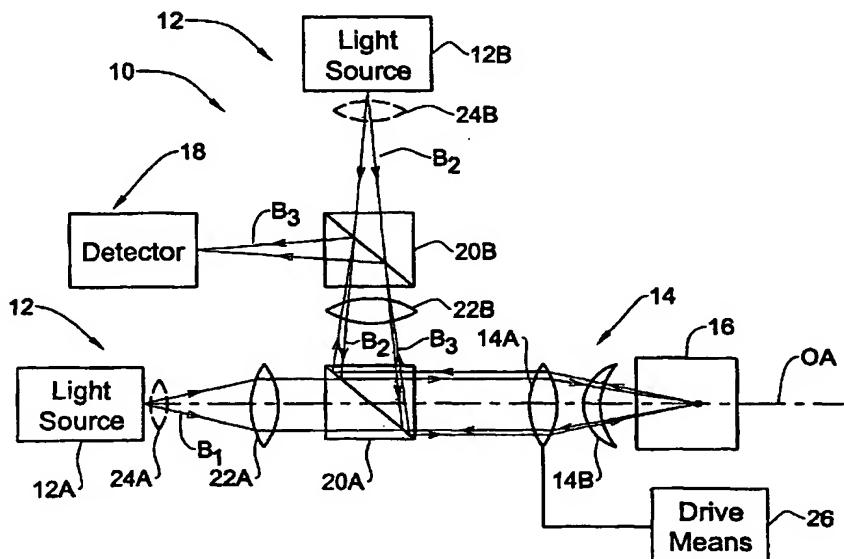
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(54) Title: TIGHT FOCUSING METHOD AND SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A method and system are presented for use in recording/reading data from an array of data units within a three-dimensional storage medium. Exciting radiation is provided in the form of first and second light beams of first and second different wavelengths, respectively. The first and second light beams are concurrently directed and focusing onto desirably distanced from each other sites in the medium and excited light of a third wavelength coming from the excited site is collected to form an excited light beam to be directed towards a detector assembly, while correcting for chromatic and spherical aberrations of the light focusing and collection. This focusing/collection is sequentially repeated for successive sites in the medium with varying depth of focus.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 291 132 B1 (LEVICH EUGENE BORIS ET AL) 18 September 2001 (2001-09-18) column 10, line 20 - column 19, line 50; figures	1-3, 15, 28-31, 49
X	WO 00/31733 A (PAVEL EUGEN) 2 June 2000 (2000-06-02) page 22, line 1 - page 32, line 16; figures	1, 31
A	US 6 432 610 B1 (DVORNIKOV ALEXANDER ET AL) 13 August 2002 (2002-08-13) column 12, line 12 - column 22, line 55; figures	1-49
A	US 5 325 324 A (RENTZEPIS PETER M ET AL) 28 June 1994 (1994-06-28) column 12, line 57 - column 26, line 49; figures	1-49

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)			Publication date
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